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TXN26 CLARK (ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 7 P.M. EDT TUESDAY- JUNE 28)
BY FELIX COTTEN

WASHINGTON- JUNE 28--(INS)--A HOOVER COMMISSION TASK FORCE CHARGED TODAY THAT DIPLOMATIC TIMIDITY BY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS HAS PREVENTED THE NATION FROM OBTAINING VITAL INFORMATION ABOUT RUSSIA'S MILITARY STRENGTH AND PLANS.

IN A REPORT TO THE COMMISSION- THE CLARK GROUP RECOMMENDED THAT THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BE REORGANIZED TO PRODUCE GREATER EMPHASIS ON ITS BASIC FUNCTIONS.

IT ALSO PROPOSED A "BOLD" POLICY IN GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOVIET BLOC- EVEN AT THE RISK OF DIPLOMATIC EMBARRASSMENT.

THE TASK FORCE SAID IT HAD FOUND NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ACCUSATIONS THAT THE CIA HAS BEEN INFILTRATED BY SUBVERSIVES- AS CHARGED LAST YEAR BY SEN. JOSEPH R. MCCARTHY (R) WIS.

THE GROUP SAID: "WE DISCOVERED NO VALID GROUND FOR THE SUSPICION THAT THE CIA OR ANY OTHER ELEMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE FAMILY WAS BEING EFFECTIVELY CONTAMINATED BY ANY ORGANIZED SUBVERSIVE OR COMMUNIST CLIQUE."

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY OFFICIALS WERE ACCUSED BY THE TASK FORCE OF STIFLING INITIATIVE AND ENERGY IN THE COLLECTION OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT RUSSIA AND HER SATELLITES.

IT SAID THIS RESULTED FROM "CONSERVATIVE" AND "NEGATIVE" ATTITUDES- A BASIC DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC AND INTELLIGENCE TECHNIQUES- AND "AN ABHORRENCE TO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD TO DIPLOMATIC OR EVEN PROTOCOL COMPLICATIONS."

CONCERNING THE NAMES OF POSSIBLE SUBVERSIVES FURNISHED TO CLARK BY MCCARTHY AND OTHERS- THE GROUP SAID "EVERY CASE EXCEPT THOSE OBVIOUSLY WITHOUT MERIT" HAD BEEN REFERRED TO THE FBI OR SOME OTHER RESPONSIBLE AGENCY FOR INVESTIGATION.

IT ADDED: "UP TO THE TIME THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED- SOME REPLIES TO OUR INQUIRY DEVELOPED INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RECORDS CONTAINED NO ADEQUATE BASIS FOR SUSPICION OF THE INDIVIDUALS AS SECURITY RISKS." MORE 1235APH LS

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"SOME REPLIES INDICATED THAT THE INDIVIDUALS WERE UNDER INVESTIGATION AND THAT THE INVESTIGATIONS WERE CONTINUING. ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS IS ON LEAVE WITHOUT PAY- PENDING. (HOLMICK) - AN INVESTIGATION NOW IN PROGRESS.

THE CLARK TASK FORCE SAID THE GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ARE "SINCERE AND DEDICATED" AND DESERVE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. HOWEVER- IT SAID "ONE FLAW IN THE PRESENT SYSTEM" IS THE FAILURE TO REQUIRE PERSONS ALREADY EMPLOYED.

THIS IS NECESSARY- IT DECLARED- "TO GUARD AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME EMPLOYEE WHO WAS COMPLETELY DEPENDABLE AND HONORABLE WHEN STARTING WORK MIGHT HAVE CHANGED CHARACTER- FALLEN FROM GRACE- OR SUBMITTED TO AO RLHA WORK MIGHT HAVE CHANGED CHARACTER- FALLEN FROM GRACE- OR SUBMITTED TO ALIEN BLANDISHMENT OR SOME PERSONAL WEAKNESS SUCH AS STRONG DRINK OR SEXUAL PERVERSION."

THE GROUP PROPOSED PERIODIC CHECKS ON INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PERSONNEL AT INTERVALS NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS.

IT SAID THAT- SO FAR AS DEFENSE INDUSTRIES ARE CONCERNED- "A SERIOUS WEAKNESS" EXISTS IN THE FACT THAT A PERSON FOUND TO BE A SECURITY RISK FOR CLASSIFIED WORK MAY BE RETAINED IN THE SAME PLANT ON SOME OTHER JOB- AND THUS BE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH WORKERS ENGAGED IN CLASSIFIED PRODUCTION.

THIS "LOOPOHOLE" IN THE SECURITY SYSTEM- IT SAID- SHOULD BE CLOSED PROMPTLY.

THE HOOVER COMMISSION SAID IT IS PASSING ON THE TASK FORCE REPORT TO CONGRESS WITHOUT COMMENT. HOWEVER- THE COMMISSION- WHICH IS HEADED BY FORMER PRESIDENT HERBERT HOOVER- INCLUDED A TWO-PAGE REPORT OF ITS OWN.

IN THIS REPORT- IT RECOMMENDED THE CREATION OF TWO "WATCH-DOG" GROUPS TO KEEP TAB ON THE CIA AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES.

ONE WOULD BE A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE- LIKE THE PRESENT JOINT ATOMIC ENERGY COMMITTEE. THE OTHER WOULD BE A SMALL GROUP OF LEADING CITIZENS APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO SERVE ON A PART-TIME BASIS. THE TWO GROUPS WOULD BE REQUESTED TO COLLABORATE.

THE COMMISSION LIKED THIS PLAN BETTER THAN THE PROPOSAL OF THE TASK FORCE FOR A SINGLE "WATCH-DOG" COMMISSION- MODELED AFTER THE HOOVER GROUP- AND INCLUDING BOTH LEADING CITIZENS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

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